

Soldiers-1930

National Guards

PICK 372ND BATTALION FOR SO. BOSTON PARADE

Quincy
TO REPLACE COAST GUARD FOR
EVACUATION DAY IN IRISH DIS-
TRICT.—MAYOR CURLEY ASKS
COLORED SOLDIERS TO MARCH.
—BAND IS CONSIDERED SPECIAL
ATTRACTION. 3-15-30

High local honors have come to the
3d Battalion of the 372d Infantry,
Mass. National Guard, in being se-
lected and requested to take the place
of the U. S. Coast Guard in the annual
Evacuation Day parade on March 17.
The parade is the chief feature in cel-
ebrating the final evacuation of Bos-
ton Town on March 17, 1775. It is
largely a South Boston affair where
the Irish citizens are in majority and
in control. *Boston Mass.*

The selection, according to the
Chief Marshal, is because of the fine
soldiery of these Colored soldiers and
the fame of their band. He says that
Mayor Curley personally urged ac-
ceptance upon the officers, with a
good compensatory appropriation for
their time and exertions.

This selection of Colored soldiers
for this Irish district once so preju-
diced, shows that the Equal Rights
work of white and Colored champions
has done good.

Captain Wilkins *Known* Gains Army Fame

7-10-30

HEADS COMPANY "G" AT CAMP

Cincinnati

To Mt. Healthy comes the honor of
having amongst its suburban residents
a man whose ability with the rifle has
gained him state wide recognition and
to whom goes the honor of heading,
despite his size, Company G of 372nd
infantry of the Ohio National Guard
colored troops which has been their
annual meeting at Camp Perry.

Approximately 400 troops have
gathered at Camp Perry which is
situated near Port Clinton, O. One
of the companies of this infantry is
Co. G. of which Capt. J. W. Wilkins
is head and which is considered one
of the best of the group.

Capt. Wilkins is a resident of the

Hilltop living on Miles road. He is
also connected with the State High-
way Department being in charge of
the forces here. He is considered one
of the best rifle marksmen of the
State and his records for shooting, are
growing better at each encampment.

Camp Perry is ideally situated for
an encampment of this kind and those
in attendance have already become
accustomed to the routine of army life
but the place will not be in full swing
for a long time. Later another group
will come to the camp for the year,
when it will take on the aspect of a
real army camp.

Of Captain Wilkins the Republican
Herald, a weekly newspaper, of that
section says:

"He might be small, but the mem-
bers of Company G. 372nd Infantry of
the Ohio National Guard troops, en-
camped at Camp Perry, have a deep
respect for their captain, who is one
of the favorites at the camp this year.

Few of us in Port Clinton, do not
know who Captain J. W. Wilkins is,
but if you journey to camp and see
a small fellow marching across the
field at the head of Company G, you
will know that he is the one referred
to. Captain Wilkins is the smallest
man in the entire infantry, standing
only a little over five feet in his
stocking feet. However, his jolly
disposition and his pleasant word to
all, have made him one of the best
liked men there.

"Captain Wilkins makes his home
in Cincinnati."—Hilltop Weekly, Mt.
Healthy, O.

Enlisted Men In National Guard To Be Given Opportunity to Enter the U. S. Military Academy, West Point

Governor Roosevelt Empowered By Govern- ment to Name Candidates Following Competi- tive Examinations; Open to All Enlisted Men

Enlisted men in the ranks of the 369th Infantry
N. Y. N. G., will have an opportunity to take the tests
necessary to entrance to the U. S. Military Academy
at West Point through examinations ordered by Gov-
ernor Roosevelt to be held November 7 and 8. Gov
Roosevelt will have the naming of ten candidates
from National Guard units, with a possibility that
the number may be increased.

Enlisted men who want to make
the effort, are required to make ap-
plication by letter through their
company and regimental command-
ers, the application to reach the
Adjutant General of New York
State on or before November 1.

Candidates' Requirements

The applicant must be between
the ages of 19 and 22 years, with
at least one year of service with a
federalized unit, and must be not
less than five feet, four inches in
height. Service with a military
unit prior to its recognition by the
Federal Government will be counted
in determining the applicant's eli-
gibility. Candidates must be un-
married.

The examination on November 7
will be in algebra, including quad-
ratic equations and progressions
and United States history. Sub-
jects on November 8 will be geome-
ry, English grammar, composition
and literature. Prior to taking the
mental tests, the applicant must
pass a physical examination to be
conducted by a medical officer or
reputable civilian physician.

Ten Men To Be Named

The application must show can-
didate's date of birth; married or

single; date of present enlistment;
previous service, if any, with date
of enlistment and discharge; per-
manent post office address.

The ten men will be selected by
the governor in order of rating as
result of the examination. Candi-
dates for the examination will be
required to report at their own ex-
pense to the designated place for
the tests. There is no limit as to
number of men who may take the
examination.

The ten selected will be author-
ized by the War Department to re-
port for the regular entrance ex-
amination on March 3, 1931, at
West Point, the actual appoint-
ments to be made as of July 1
1931

Soldiers-1930.

Navy, Negroes in.

RUMOR SAYS PEA ISLAND UNIT MAY BE TRANSFERRED

White Guardsmen Resent Famous Crew's New Quarters
1-27-30
New Quarters
New York, Va.

PROTEST PLANNED

Citizens Of Both Races

Expected To Oppose Removal

Special to Journal and Guide
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—The startling rumor that the pretentious new Coast Guard Station to be built at Pea Island, where is located the only Negro Coast Guard unit in the country and possibly in the world, is to be occupied by white Coast Guardsmen who are said to resent the idea of the colored unit at Pea Island having a new station, is expected to be met by vigorous protest on the part of citizens of both races who appreciate the splendid services these black saviors of lives and ships have rendered.

This transfer, according to the rumor, will be made possible by the removal of the Negro crew to Oregon Inlet, which is an old station and which is now manned by a white crew. It is said that higher-ups in the Service will be asked to move the colored Pea Island crew to Oregon Inlet and the white Oregon Inlet crew to the new Pea Island Station, upon completion of the new station.

One of Oldest Stations

The Pea Island Station is one of the oldest on the coast, so the Federal Government has decided to replace it. Plans and specifications for the new station are now ready. The station will have nine rooms, will cost \$35,000, and will be one of the best station houses on the beach, according to Captain M.

P. Hite, white, who drew the plans.

The new station will be located several miles south of the present Pea Island Station, almost on the fill at New Inlet. The old station is much nearer Oregon Inlet Station than it is Chicamacomico Station. So the new station will be farther south, in order to more nearly equalize the distance between the stations.

Has Notable Record

Pea Island Station is commanded by Captain George E. Pruden, who after becoming an able seaman enlisted in the service at Pea Island Station in his early twenties. In 1924 Captain Pruden and his brave crew effected one of the most daring and able rescues made by any station on the coast, when he rescued Captain Bannister Midgett, Manteo, and three other men who were cast away in Pembroke Sound during a severe gale.

Captain Midgett, who is recognized as dean of Coast Guards on the Atlantic Coast, having attended over a hundred wrecks and assisted in the rescue of more than fifty years of service, declared at the time that Captain Pruden's performance was one of the bravest and ablest he had ever witnessed, and wrote Headquarters commending him for his act.

The discipline and efficiency of the Pea Island Station was publicly commended in 1927 by Commander Price of the Seventh District, which embraces all stations from Cape Henry to Key West, who declared that no station was kept in more orderly manner than Pea Island Station.

History of Station

Pea Island Station was built over fifty years ago and its record is one of the best in the U. S. Coast Guard Service. Few people know how the station came to be manned by a colored crew. It is usually said in this section that politics of the Reconstruction period were responsible for the establishment of this Coast Guard station, manned entirely by Negroes, on the North Carolina coast.

The U. S. sloop-of-war Huron, pride of Uncle Sam's navy, was partly responsible for the establishment of Pea Island Station. The Huron, built in 1874, left Hampton Roads for the West Indies, on November 23, 1877, for the purpose of making a scientific reconnaissance of the coast of Cuba. On board were one hundred and twenty picked men. Early the following morning the Huron was driven ashore near Nags Head. At that time, there were only four Coast Guard stations, then called Life Saving Stations, on the coast of North Carolina, and these were twenty miles or more apart and were manned only during the winter season, beginning December 1.

So, when the Huron struck, there never was no one at the Nags Head station.

And before help could reach them, 98 officers and two men of the company on board the Huron were dead, either from drowning or from exposure. The nation was so shocked at this tragedy that the great wave of indignation that preceded the wreck of the Huron caused Congress to make appropriations for the building of a number of stations for the Life Saving Service. One of these was the Pea Island Station.

Old-Timer Talks

"In those days, says Capt. D. M. Pugh, white, of Colonial Avenue, one of the few living men who was in the Life Saving Service half a century ago, "it was hard to get men in the Service. Keepers were paid only \$200 a year and by any station on the coast, when he surf men were paid \$40 a month. Consequently, they took most anybody they could get, even Negroes. There were seven Negroes in the Service at that time, and they were in various stations along the coast. The white men in the Service disliked association with the Negroes and openly expressed resentment. So, when several new stations were built, Joe Etheridge, who was in charge of this district wrote to National Headquarters and suggested that the seven Negroes who constituted a full crew, be placed in one of the new stations, leaving the other stations manned entirely by white men. This, he said, would increase the efficiency of both the Negroes and the white men. Thus it was that Pea Island Station came to be manned by Negroes."

On Labor Day, 1927, the Pea Island crew, with the permission of the Federal Government, gave its first public demonstration at Elizabeth City. They brought their full crew and equipment and staged spectacular boat drills in the harbor and life-line demonstrations on the campus of Roanoke Institute. Thousands of both races and many leading officials attended. The occasion was a thrilling tribute to the heroes of the sea who risk life and limb when lashing winds whip hungry waves over distressed ships plying North Carolina's rugged coast.

Turbulent History

During this 1927 celebration and demonstration, Commander James A. Price, of the Seventh District, said these colored Coast Guardsmen "would not be here if they had not had the ability and opportunity to do efficient work." That Pea Island Station has had a turbulent and frequently unpleasant history was vouched for at that time by Commissioner N. W. Dailey, white, who for years was actively connected with the Coast Guard. Only the undeniable excellence and efficiency of the colored crew and the justice of a few men in high positions made it possible that the crew existed, he said.

The usual howl over the presence of colored men on Coast Guard crews made it advisable, he said, to set up the Pea Island Station as an all-Negro crew station. Pea Island is isolated and involves the most dangerous kind of work. Once, Mr. Dailey said at the 1927 demonstration, white burned the Pea Island Station down, but they were never prosecuted.

"But no Coast Guard Station on the entire coast," declared Mr. Dailey, "is

better. Pea Island has set a high precedent in Washington, and it has had to do so—need I say why?"

He then related the story of two Negro Coast Guardsmen who stripped in the icy blasts of a March storm, dove into the freezing waters, and loosened an anchor chain on a vessel which went down in distress, so that it might be saved.

MANCHESTER, CONN.

HERALD

DEC 8 - 1930
MYSTERIOUS

Perhaps we shall hear some more about the sinking of the schooner Storm Petrel while under tow from New London to Nantucket, with the loss of six lives. Perhaps not. All the people who went down with the leaky old hooker were Negroes—the captain, his wife and son and three seamen.

The schooner, sixty years old, came into the news about ten days ago when she went ashore off Saybrook and after grounding again was towed into New London by a Coast Guard vessel. She had been trying to get to Nantucket with a little cargo of 250 tons of coal taken on at New York.

At New London the old ship was sadly in need of repairs. She was leaking and her sails were tattered. But her captain—who apparently was her owner, too—couldn't raise the money needed to put her in shape. So the crew tinkered at her as best they could. There wasn't any money for a tow to Nantucket and the old boat was too lame to make her own way, so the Coast Guard undertook to tow her, gratis. Six hours out, in not very bad weather, the Storm Petrel concluded to quit and with very little warning she went down. The crew of the Coast Guard cutter could do nothing but cut the towline and let her go.

Now there is a singular thing about this. The Coast Guardsmen say they could see nothing of any of the crew after the boat left New London. They believed that the Negroes were all below decks. But apparently nobody can be quite certain that they were aboard at all. Probably they were—but perhaps they went overside into the ship's boat a good while before. It was right when the Storm Petrel ended

her sixty years of voyaging.

There is more than a little mystery

about this case. How come this ancient vagabond of the seas to be

bumming around this coast in such condition? How come the Coast

Guard to undertake to tow her in the shape she was in? There is

such a thing as a set of navigation laws and they apply to coastwise

freighters as well as to other vessels. How come there was such

flagrant violation of them? Was it solely and entirely because this was

a Negro ship—and nothing that might happen to it made any difference?

On the face of it it looks as if six human lives had been needlessly

sacrificed. On the other hand it looks a little as if six Negroes may

have played a grim joke on the white man's world. It would be in-

teresting to know if the Storm Petrel was insured and who held the

policy—and several other things

Soldiers-1930

Officers
NEW YORK
Illustrated News

JAN 15 1930

NEW YORK WORLD

Negro Flunked From West Point Staunchly Says He Got Fair Deal

Alonzo Souleigh Parham of Chicago, who for six months was West Point's only Negro cadet, was flunked out yesterday along with sixty-three white men. But he isn't going to be the issue in anybody's fight over race equality. He says so with as emphatic an "I should say not!" as you could hear anywhere.

"I got a fair and square deal," he declared last night as he came down from his train to the rain-swept station platform at Weehawken. "Look at these other fellows coming here. They weren't dropped on account of their color. Neither was I."

Parham is a tall, broad-shouldered youth of twenty, with dark brown skin and a good-natured smile. Though already honorably discharged from the United States Army, he still wore his gray uniform with caped overcoat, and under his arm he carried a brown paper parcel of personal effects. He was surrounded by reporters who hadn't time to be tactful. In a smooth, gentlemanly voice he parried their questions like a fencer. Had he said anything that hinted at unfairness or unkind treatment, it would have been news. But nothing of the sort came from Parham, except possibly a vague admission that he was "not particularly disappointed."

Had he been hazed? How about the

reports that the "silence" was used against him? Had there been any discrimination? Had he made friends? Had any one been unpleasant to him? "They don't haze at West Point any more. I was given very good treatment. The officers were my friends, and cadets, too. Cadets both from the North and South. Of course, out of 1,000 men there are always some you don't like and that don't like you."

Had he been happy during his six months at the Point?

"Well, take any young fellow going away from home out 'where men are men.' He's going to be lonesome and homesick sometimes. Some of them resigned, they were so lonesome and homesick. They resigned."

Alonzo Parham was standing very straight. He hadn't resigned.

Representative Oscar de Priest, who appointed Parham, has made much of the fact that he is a representative of his race. Parham himself doesn't do any talking about race equality. It is apparent that if Parham is slighted, he takes it as a personal and not a racial

matter. It is apparent that Alonzo Parham is a very proud young man, and that so far as he was concerned he entered West Point the same as a white man, faced his life there like a white man, and took his flunking like a white man.

Falled in Two Tests

The cadets discharged yesterday had failed in the written review in December and also had failed in a second special examination. Forty-six of the sixty-four failed in only one subject, and are entitled to take another examination for re-entry in March. Parham, who failed only in mathematics—algebra and geometry—is among these, but he is "not certain" whether he will take the new test. He refused to say what considerations would guide his decision.

Each case of flunking was reviewed by various boards of instructors at the academy and then passed on to the War Department for approval. Forty-eight of those dismissed were plebes, first year men, including Parham, and the rest were yearlings. Major Gen. William R. Smith, superintendent of the academy, said that the plebe grades this year were an improvement over last year, when 15.7 per cent. failed. The percentage of failures this year was 11.5 per cent.

They weren't all so cheerful about FLUNKS Mathematics and Leaves West Point



Wide World Photograph
ALONZO PARHAM

who shook hands with each.

Not First Negro Cadet

"I'm sorry this has happened," he told them, "and I hope that it will leave you with no bad effects to start a fresh line of endeavor. For those of you who will be able to take your re-examinations for entrance, I hope you will do so."

Parham was not the first Negro to go to West Point. One went through and rose to the rank of Colonel. But he was the first since 1918, and he will not be the last.

For Representative De Priest, receiving yesterday's news without any disposition to find fault, immediately announced that if Parham did not return, he would appoint another Negro in his place, and also appoint a Negro to fill a second vacancy. He will also nominate two more Negroes for the Naval Academy. Last year's appointee for Annapolis failed to pass the entrance examination, as did his alternates.

NEGRO AMONG CADETS GIVEN DISCHARGE

Parham Fails To Make Grade and Is "Shipped" at West Point.

WEST POINT, N. Y., Jan. 14.—

(AP)—Alonzo Parham, negro, of Chicago, was among the 64 cadets honorably discharged today from the United States Military academy for failure to pass their mid-term academic examinations.

Parham was deficient in only one subject, mathematics, and he is eligible to take a re-examination in March, which, if successfully passed, will entitle him to re-enter the academy.

Forty-eight of the cadets dismissed today were plebes, or freshmen, and the others were sophomores. The examination was taken by 127 cadets, 73 of whom passed. Forty-six, all third and fourth classmen, were deficient in only one subject, and they have the privilege of re-examination in March.

Major General William R. Smith, superintendent of the academy, said that the plebe grades this year showed an improvement over last year when 15.7 per cent of the class was discharged.

The cadets dismissed today had failed to pass the written general review held early in December and also failed to meet the requirements in a special examination.

Each individual case was reviewed by various boards of instructors at the academy and then referred to the war department for final action.

DEPRIEST TO APPOINT ANOTHER NEGRO.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—(AP)—

Representative Oscar DePriest, negro republican of Illinois, who appointed Alonzo Parham, negro, to West Point, said today that he would appoint another negro to the academy if Parham actually had been dropped for failing to pass his mid-term examinations.

"I understand that Parham has 60 days in which to make up his credits," DePriest said.

"Of course, I may be mistaken because this is the first experience I have had in that connection. If my appointee is definitely discharged I shall appoint another colored boy, because of all members of congress, I am the only one who would appoint a boy of the race with which I am identified."

PARHAM FLUNKED MATH, BUT HAS ANOTHER TRY

Result of Second Exam December 29, is Not Known. 1-4-30

53 OTHERS FAILED
60-Day Suspension is on Schedule.

WEST POINT, N. Y.—(Special)—Suspension for 60 days and a third examination is on the schedule for Cadet Alonzo Parham, unless he passed his examination in mathematics, December 29.

Parham, an appointee of Rep. Oscar DePriest (Rep., Ill.), with 53

classmates, failed in his December written mathematics test, and was given a second chance four days after Christmas. The result of this will not be known until Brigadier General Smith, superintendent, returns from the Coast with the Cadet football team. If Parham fails in his third examination, he automatically becomes ineligible and can only get back to West Point by reappointment.



Cadet Parham

DEPRIEST HAS NO WORD
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Morris Lewis, secretary to Mr. DePriest, said Tuesday the Congressman had received no word of the outcome of Parham's second examination.

failure to pass mid-term academic examinations. He was Alonzo Souleigh Parham, deficient in West Point's only one subject—mathematics—and among the sixty-four cadets honorably discharged yesterday for 42d st. ferry.

If West Point Is Hell, It's Beautiful and Peaceful

Civilian employee declares that all enlisted men and non-coms are treated alike. Suggests Parham be left alone to study his "math."

To the Editor: *Alfonso American*
In your last two issues of the AFRO, one L. F. Coles has written conditions as he found them at West Point. For more than three years, I have been a civilian employee on the post, and it ruffles me to read statements, the most of them, untrue and unfair. 1-4-30

Everyone knows there is a certain amount of distinction between officer and enlisted man (sergeants come under this head), but an enlisted man, black or white, has the same kind of house here *Alfonso American*

For a number of years, I was a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Party No. 9, with headquarters at 914 Karpen building, Chicago, Ill., and had occasion to enter every state in the union, making friends among both races; but in no place have I found greater harmony among blacks and whites than here on West Point.

We have had several guests here, many of whom would have made public statements had they found conditions, in any way, deplorable. On one occasion our guest was the eldest lady standing among more than fifty whites at morning service at Cadet Chapel. When chairs were brought, she was the first to be seated by the cadet ushers.

The Lamp Issue

The statement that all Negro sergeants had lamps, while all whites have electricity, was most untrue. A Negro sergeant, who has just retired as master sergeant, from the medical corps, had the best enlisted man's quarters on West Point, the only steam-heated house not occupied by an officer.

There is only one Negro sergeant living in a lamp-light house, and in that row are several whites, all with the same conveniences and inconveniences. Those houses will be electrified when that line is reached in the routine of repairs here.

We have attended a number of recitals, both at Cullum Hall and Cadet Chapel, and all football games this season. Our treatment has always been above reproach.

Of course the Cavalry has its own swimming pool. Why shouldn't they? They also have their own tailor shop and barber shop. The men did the work themselves? Bravo! Cavalry men! Good, they could do it.

No Doctors

There are no Negro doctors here in the medical corps. The medicine dispenser is a Negro sergeant. There is an efficient young Negro whom I have known to go to officers' homes and extract blood for tests. There are clerks, alert assistants in every department, orderlies and a very efficient veterinarian. Those mopping floors are recruits or those on fatigue duty.

Nurses have their training in schools of nursing the same as cadets do for officers, and are a separate corps, and should not be mentioned in this discussion of conditions among Negro sergeants.

In the hospital wives and children of white and Negro sergeants have beds side by side and receive the same treatment.

Everywhere, there are agitators of both races, who cause someone trouble, but if West Point is "Hell," it is a very beautiful, healthful and peaceful "hell."

Three S's

As for Mr. Parham, he would be much better off if the press and Mr. Cole would leave him alone. True, only three Negroes have graduated from West Point. They had the 3 S's, and if Mr. Parham possesses Self-Control, Self-Confidence and Stick-to-it-tiveness, he will be the Fourth Graduate. So, let's give him a free breath to

lose his self-consciousness, and to study his "Math."

All Except Officers

Now, back to the Cavalrymen. All Cavalrymen here are Negroes, except the officers in command.

In the sports of the post, playing against the white organizations, the Cavalrymen have won on several occasions the baseball trophy, and this year they won the football trophy. All games were played against whites.

So to the Cavalrymen, I say—

Stand up, brave Cavalrymen,

Eat, sleep and smoke—

Let Cole keep lying on,

We know he's a joke.

GEORGE W. BUTLER,

Quarters 63, West Point, N.Y.

More Hell at West Point

Cadet Parham "Walks the Aerial" at the U.S. Military Academy, according to this correspondent, who says members of the Regular Army detachment assigned there criticize him, but do not refute his statements.

To the Editor: *Alfonso American*

The West Point question is still very vexed and Sergeants A, B, C and D, among other sergeants, wrote me to the effect that the AFRO-AMERICAN is no good and never has accomplished anything, therefore, why should it publish anything against as great a school as West Point, for it is talking against the government. These sergeants have evaded the questions. I made certain specific and definite charges against West Point. They are as follows:

1. All of the colored officers who were brought to West Point (colored) who had been overseas were reduced from lieutenants and majors to sergeants. I took Major Milton T. Dean, who is now a sergeant, as a striking case in West Point because he attended both Howard and Harvard Universities and tried to show the type of man he is and what a dastardly thing it was for the government to do this. None of these sergeants deny this statement.

2. I said that the colored sergeants are without modern improvements in their quarters, such as electric lights and steam heat. The white sergeants, most of them, have these modern improvements. The sergeants do not deny this.

3. I said that there are separate swimming pools, that is, the colored detachment has a swimming pool, which of course shows that they are jim-crowed when it comes to swimming. This jim-crow pool was built by the colored detachment because there was no money available for outside labor. The sergeants have not denied this.

4. I said that the U.S. Detachment of Cavalry was organized at West Point in 1907 and that, to my mind, they could have had commissioned colored officers in all these years. They have not. The sergeants do not deny this.

5. The Medical Detachment does not have even a colored sergeant. They do not deny this.

The one thing that seems to make these sergeants want my skull and the hide of Editor Murphy is the fact that we had something to say against the attitude of the school toward Cadet Alonzo S. Parham.

Sergeant A wants to know if I am going to doubt the boy after he has made a statement. I have said once before, yes, because the statement was made under adverse circumstances, and when I was up there, he was under punishment probably for something that he had failed to do rather than something he had done, for the cadets are punished for sins of omission as well as those of commission.

Parham was "walking an aerial," which means that he was in all probability walking a straight line for about the distance of a city block, more or less. He had to walk this whether or not it rained pitch forks or snowed brick bats, it made no difference. This is probably the reason why he is deficient in mathematics. One cannot walk this aerial and at the same time do a problem

How sergeants who have finished such reputable schools as Harvard and others can cringe and crawl like these fellows do is beyond my imagination, but most men who have attended Harvard have more wish bone than back bone, the exceptions being Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, William Monroe Trotter, Alain Locke, Ferdinand Q. Morison, Charles Wesley and Carl Murphy. I may have missed a few of them, but those whom I have missed may be counted on the fingers of one hand with two fingers left.

This is especially true if they are government employees and more especially if they are in any branch of the army or navy. They seem to get in the habit of taking orders and it becomes their second nature. Most of them are fine men, but seem not to have the courage of their convictions, and are unable to speak out on questions affecting their manhood rights.

I do not always agree with the AFRO, and have at times taken sharp exceptions to things that it has said and done, and have written it and my letters were always published in the paper. This showed that it did not try to make me think about things as it thought about them. In fact, all the AFRO staff, including John H. Murphy, Sr., who founded the paper, were and still are, persistent, fearless and indefatigable champions of their citizenship rights.

L. F. COLES,

633 Leland-st., Philadelphia, Pa.

Negro Cadet Is Fired From West Point For Failing Examination

WEST POINT, N. Y., Jan. 14.—(AP)—Alonzo Parham, Chicago negro, was among the 64 cadets honorably discharged today from the United States Military Academy for failure to pass mid-term academic examinations.

Parham was deficient in mathematics. He is eligible to take a re-examination in March, which, if successfully passed, will entitle him to reenter the academy. 1-15-30

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Maj. Gen. William R. Smith, superintendent of the academy, said the plebe class grades this year showed an improvement over last year when 15.7 per cent of the class was discharged.

PRESS
MUNCIE, IND.

JAN 15 1930
AT LAST IT GIVES
A CLUE.

It just so happens that negroes appointed to cadetships in West Point and Annapolis cannot "make the grade," or in these cases, the grades. Now according to the newspaper dispatches the reason for the honorable discharge of Alonzo Parham, Chicago, with 63 other

cadets from West Point was because of deficiency in his studies. Parham was appointed by Oscar DePriest, the negro congressman from Chicago. DePriest also named a negro boy from Chicago to be a midshipman at Annapolis, and the latter was thrown out, but, of course, with an "honorable discharge," because he could not pass the physical examination. DePriest now has two similar appointments to make in the spring. He should be very certain they are giants both mentally and physically.

Of course the traditions of West Point and Annapolis do not permit the presence of negroes in those institutions. For the matter of that, the traditions of the Congress since the carpetbagger days, do not contemplate the seating of colored members in the House and Senate, but both houses would be afraid to throw out a colored person who has been duly elected. In the military and naval academies, hide-bound by ancient traditions, there is no such inhibitory belief.

All of which goes to indicate the reason why the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution of the United States appear to be observed more in breach than observance.